

# *Conservation Bulletin, Issue 29, July 1996*

Hadrian's Wall Management Plan published	1
Editorial: the Heritage Green Paper	4
Stonehenge: pushing for the tunnel option – revisited	6
Postal pouch boxes	6
Helping with site management in East Anglia	7
Monument conservation through land purchase	8
Streamlining listed building procedure	12
Joining forces to save our churches	14
Improving the face of London	16
Garden Register/New publications	18
Books	20
Notes	22
New focus for churches	24

*(NB: page numbers are those of the original publication)*

## **Hadrian's Wall Management Plan published**



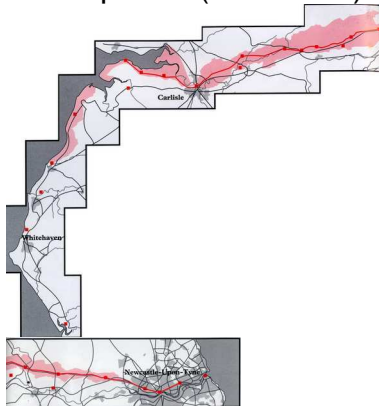
*Hadrian's Wall: a general view looking west, showing a farm wall along the route of the Wall*

Progress on the preparation of a Management Plan for the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site has been reported in previous issues of *Conservation Bulletin* (**22**, 4–5 and **26**, 5–8). The final version of the Plan\* was published on 9 July this year, following a year of intensive public consultation. Throughout the process we have been greatly helped by the advice of a working party. This includes representatives of government departments and agencies, local authorities, archaeologists, landowners and farmers, and tourism, as well as specialist subgroups working on planning issues, visitor services and rural land use, and of our own Hadrian's Wall Advisory Panel. The last is made up principally of archaeological specialists on the Roman frontier.

More than 800 copies of the first consultation draft were issued after publication in July 1995. Comments were received from government departments and agencies, local authorities, parish councils, the Country Landowners Association and the National Farmers Union (NFU), as well as from individual landowners and farmers, site managers, conservation bodies and a number of private individuals. Written consultation was backed up by numerous meetings along the Wall, ranging from a public meeting in Bowness-on-Solway, to an open meeting with over 100 members of the NFU, to a question-and-answer session with the full Tynedale District Council.

As a result of these comments, the Plan was rewritten in more accessible language and at about half the length of the original draft. The second draft was sent in early March 1996 to all local authorities and agencies, including all affected parish councils, as well as to all those individuals and bodies who had commented on the first draft. Four hundred copies were issued and around 70 written responses were received. Again there were several

meetings with interested parties, particularly with landowners and farmers, and we have continued to be supported by the advice of the various working groups. Apart from being rewritten in plainer language the main changes are that the document is now more strategic in tone, setting out basic principles and guidelines for future action, and that it emphasises the need for consensus of all parties involved to implement what is, of course, a non-statutory plan. A lot of the comments we received centred on the proposed boundaries of the World Heritage Site and we are now proposing a much tighter definition concentrated on the archaeological core of the Wall and the associated features of the Roman frontier zone. Unesco now seeks buffer zones around World Heritage Sites and the Plan proposes meeting this need by agreement with each local authority on a Setting for the main linear element of the Site. This will provide a basis for planning policies to protect the World Heritage Site and also be a suitable area in which to develop schemes for landscape enhancement with suitable grant support (see map). As before, the Plan sets out guiding principles for the next 30 years and objectives for the first five years of this period (see below).



In the meantime, work has begun on a number of aspects of implementing the Plan. English Heritage's Hadrian's Wall Office was opened in Hexham in May. We have also appointed a General Manager for our own sites as the first step towards managing them as exemplars.

Work has begun on the preparation of an interpretive strategy for the whole World Heritage Site and discussions have begun with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods on ways in which agri-environmental grant schemes, such as Countryside Stewardship, can be used to support the general landscape objectives of the Plan. Progress has been made also on the linked initiatives. The Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership has published a new guide-leaflet to the Wall as the first step towards improving the sustainability of tourism on the Wall. The Countryside Commission has appointed archaeological consultants to advise them on the creation of the Hadrian's Wall National Trail and the first steps towards the Trail should be taken this year.

The first Management Plan Committee, which will have wide representation of all the interests involved will be in September, when it will discuss and decide the work programme for the rest of this year for the implementation of the Plan.



*Walltown Crags and Turret, top, and a section of the Vallum, above. The varied landscapes and land uses along the length of the Wall reflect the numerous issues,*

\*Copies of the Management Plan may be obtained from English Heritage, Hadrian's Wall Office, Abbey Gate House, Market Street, Hexham NE46 3LX.

## **Guiding principles for management of Hadrian's Wall for the years 1996–2026**

- 1 provision of the opportunity to identify and promote change beneficial to the World Heritage Site and its Setting, and to protect and safeguard their future for coming generations
- 2 maintain and reinforce the special character of the area
- 3 retain the vitality of the Wall's landscape
- 4 maximise public and private resources for the enhancement and management of the landscape
- 5 available opportunities should be used to maximise the benefits of sustained long-term management plans of the Wall and its area
- 6 seize available opportunities for freeing the most sensitive sites from modern development or planting
- 7 develop understanding of the archaeological or historical value of individual sites and of the World Heritage Site as a whole
- 8 improve public understanding about the value and importance of the World Heritage Site
- 9 continue to improve the visitor's visual, cultural and educational experience of the World Heritage Site
- 10 improve access to and within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site
- 11 ensure that the economic benefits of tourism within the World Heritage Site and its Setting are maximised for the benefit of local communities
- 12 seek to develop partnership and consensus among all those, public or private, involved within the World Heritage Site and its Setting

## **Objectives for the next five years, 1996–2000**

- 1 clear definition of the extent of the World Heritage Site and its archaeological resources, and Unesco's confirmation of this designation
- 2 agreement with local authorities of a defined Setting for the World Heritage Site and application by them of coordinated planning policies within local plans or structure plans for the whole of the World Heritage Site and its Setting, which distinguish between their separate needs
- 3 resolution of the status and contribution to the World Heritage Site of the Wall in the urban areas of Tyneside and Carlisle
- 4 within existing legislation, provision of enhanced and focused protection for the World Heritage Site and its Setting; review of the extent of areas scheduled as being of national archaeological importance
- 5 establishment of better management regimes for individual sites by seeking agreement with landowners/occupiers and other relevant bodies on indicative targets for monitoring and enhancing all sensitive archaeological sites and their landscape (including geology and wildlife) in the World Heritage Site and its Setting; implementation of these targets by voluntary means (when possible) using all available sources of funding (eg EU, MAFF, EH, local authority)

- 6 regular monitoring of the condition of the earthworks and masonry of Hadrian's Wall and other archaeological sites within the World Heritage Site, and targeting of grants through use of the concept of 'limits of acceptable change' to secure recording and consolidation
- 7 introduction of Hadrian's Wall database to provide archaeological and planning information and a management database for the World Heritage Site
- 8 formulation of an agreed academic framework for research on Hadrian's Wall, including the publication of outstanding information from excavation and survey
- 9 management by English Heritage of its own sites on the Wall as exemplars appropriate to its World Heritage Status
- 10 monitoring the impact of tourists and visitors to the Wall, and encouraging them away from areas at risk of erosion by defining and applying the concept of 'limits of acceptable change'
- 11 minimising conflict with existing land users and safeguarding sensitive locations by management of visitor behaviour
- 12 encouragement of steps towards the introduction of an integrated, sustainable transport strategy to improve visitor access to the World Heritage Site and its Setting
- 13 explanation of the importance of the World Heritage Site designation and its implications to residents and visitors, decision makers
- 14 enhancement of the quality of visitor experience in the World Heritage Site and its Setting
- 15 development of a coordinated approach to interpretation, including such non-archaeological aspects as wildlife and geology at Roman and other sites throughout the World Heritage Site and its Setting and to their marketing to achieve other objectives of the Plan
- 16 maximising of local benefits of sustainable tourism through the promotion of stronger links with local services and businesses and through appropriate tourism developments in the wider area
- 17 integration of current initiatives (eg the Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail; Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership) within the Management Plan approach through establishment of the Coordination Unit
- 18 establishment of a Hadrian's Wall Management Plan Committee, representative of interests encompassing the World Heritage Site, to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Plan, and also development of wider means of communication with the local population
- 19 appointment of a coordinator and a small team to back up the Plan, and to coordinate action on implementing its recommendations

## **The Heritage Green Paper: building a platform for change**

*A year after the Government's announcement of a prospective Heritage Green Paper, a consultation document has now been put forward. Here Jane Sharman, Director of Conservation, reviews and discusses the issues covered and not covered*

It is now over a year since Stephen Dorrell, former Secretary of State for National Heritage, announced the Government's intention to publish a Heritage Green Paper. While reiterating the Government's commitment to conservation Mr Dorrell placed particular emphasis on two points: he stressed the desirability of public consultation on listing and the importance of examining other measures that might help to make the current system of listed building controls less onerous.

### **Still short of the goal**

English Heritage now has the consultation document. The introduction vividly illustrates the extent of achievements in recent years for the protection and enhancement of the

historic environment. Nonetheless, systems need constant review, and the document covers a wide and diverse range of matters, from important issues of principle to minor and technical proposals for tidying up current legislation, some of which have already been the subject of public consultation.

There appears to be no early prospect of legislation. The consultation paper does, however, provide a valuable opportunity to discuss current conservation issues and to build a platform for change as soon as the right opportunity presents itself. The consultation document is too long to be summarised adequately here, but it is useful to highlight the apparent direction of Government thinking in key areas, and in areas where further public debate will be particularly useful.

## **Priorities and debated issues**

The main issue is public consultation on listing. As reported in previous issues of *Conservation Bulletin* (**22**, 8–9 and 14–15; **24**, 18–20; **25**, 7–8; **26**, 3–4 and 12–13; **27**, 8–9, 10–11 and 12–13; **28**, 9–10 and 18–19), we are already well down this road in relation to thematic listing. We are relieved that the paper recognises that there are significant problems in extending consultation to the bulk of spot-listing cases, and that providing protection during the consultation period is not a matter that can be left to chance. For example, we have already experienced some losses as a result of consultation on mill buildings.

The Government has made it clear that it is not persuaded that it is either desirable or feasible to allow economic or financial considerations to be taken into account when making a decision on whether to list a building or not. This debate has been particularly fierce in relation to the listing of post-war commercial and industrial buildings, perhaps tending to obscure the fact that by no means all property drops in value at the point of listing. On the contrary, a sizable number of requests for spot-listing reflect the desire of owners to enhance the protection and value of their buildings. The continuing uncertainty over society's long-term assessment of post-war buildings is also reflected in a new suggestion that a provisional designation might be applied to recent buildings allowing reassessment after a given interval has elapsed.

## **A more flexible approach**

A number of other suggestions are canvassed for reducing the impact of listing, including more reliance on conservation area controls, and listing in respect of exteriors only. As the document recognises, these are fraught with difficulty not least because a large proportion of list descriptions were not written to provide sufficient guidance on the special interest of buildings to be a reliable indicator for blanket exemptions from the current controls.

However, English Heritage does accept that there is a need to encourage more flexibility and vision to ensure that practical solutions are tailored to protect and enhance features of real historic interest and to reduce the burden, both for owners and planning authorities, of excessively detailed and inflexible intervention in minor matters.

An approach to the retention of existing fabric in buildings in use, which rejects all changes, however minor, does not always produce a quality result which will be valued by present and future generations, or secure long-term commitment to conservation, either on the part of the owner or the public.

In this context we very much welcome some proposals which would bring more flexibility into the system. The first of these is the introduction of a statutory procedure which would allow local planning authorities to certify that particular works do not require listed building consent. Second is the introduction of 'class' or 'standing' consents for programmes of work which would facilitate Management Agreements for certain types of building, as advocated in our Conservation leaflet, *Developing guidelines for the management of listed buildings* (1995).

In addition, the consultation paper highlights the need to reassess the extent of English Heritage's powers in London as part of our overall strategy to enable the London Boroughs to determine most listed building consent applications themselves. With the growth in expertise at borough level, there is a need to streamline systems and reduce unnecessary paperwork. We will be issuing a consultation paper on the long-term relationship between English Heritage and the London Boroughs later this year.

## **Neglected matters**

By contrast, the consultation document disappointingly fails to address a source of major irritation and uncertainty for many owners: the cumbersome and secretive double handling procedures which have existed between Government departments and English Heritage since 1984 (1986 in London) in relation to listed building consent for certain categories of applications, and the equally opaque procedures for determining planning authorities' own applications. We believe that it should be possible to secure a significant simplification of the system without prejudicing the rights of individual owners or the position of the Secretary of State. Our thoughts are outlined separately in this issue by Paul Drury.

## **Scheduled monuments**

The most significant proposal in the section on ancient monuments and archaeology also relates to controls – this time for scheduled monuments. The proposal to transfer powers from central Government to local authorities has had considerable support in recent years, partly in recognition of the fact that many local authorities have developed effective in-house archaeological expertise over the last two decades. While the recent reorganisation of local government is currently giving rise to some resource problems – which must be resolved before authorities can be expected to welcome extra responsibilities – English Heritage believes that it is no longer sensible to process consents for often very minor matters at national level.

Clearly, devolution should not result in withdrawal of the very considerable expert back-up which English Heritage can provide on important and complex issues. We feel, however, that many local authority staff would welcome the opportunity to manage scheduled monuments, as they do listed buildings, locally.

The section of the paper which deals with ancient monuments section contains other important proposals, some of which are familiar: the future of Areas of Archaeological Importance (whose purpose has largely been overtaken by PPG 16 on archaeology and planning) has been the subject of consultation before; the treatment of scheduled monuments also subject to statutory ecclesiastical controls is a new issue of some complexity, particularly while the functioning of the ecclesiastical controls in relation to archaeology remains patchy; the transfer to English Heritage of many of the functions now exercised by Department of National Heritage in relation to maritime archaeology in England has also been discussed over a number of years.

Broadly speaking, we support these and the other proposals for tidying and tightening the legislation. The Government's reiterated commitment to ending Crown immunity from heritage legislation is also welcome, although there is a conspicuous lack of a timetable for its implementation.

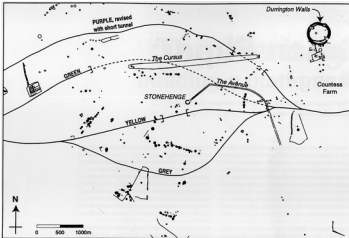
## **Getting it right**

It will nonetheless be important to get the detail right if changes are to improve the effectiveness of the current system, and to listen very carefully to any substantial criticism which may be levelled at the proposals. Our own more detailed response to the whole range of issues in the consultation document can be made available to those who would find it useful. Meanwhile please join the debate, and do not hesitate to take up the paper's invitation to make additional or alternative suggestions for change.

Jane Sharman

*Director of Conservation*

## Stonehenge: pushing for the tunnel option – revisited



In the last issue of *Conservation Bulletin*, March 1996 (no **28**) a map of Stonehenge and its environs, showing various options under discussion for rerouting the A303, accompanied an article by Michael Brainsby of Legal and Secretariat.

The editors have become aware that the map may have appeared confusing to some of our readers, in particular pertaining to the 'Purple' route, which appears in red on the map, and to the 'long bored tunnel' (described on page 4), which pertains to an alternative route proposed by English Heritage and the National Trust, also referred to as the 'Green' route. We hope that the map accompanying this note clarifies the various route proposals. It originally accompanied an article by Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, 'Stonehenge saved?', which was published in *Antiquity* 70, 267 (March 1996), 9012.

The long bored tunnel of the Green route, which runs from New Kings Barrow Ridge on the east to the Fargo Plantation on the west, is shown as a dashed line. The shorter tunnel of the Purple route is also shown as a dashed line. The Yellow route follows the line of the present road, while the Grey route is a detour to the south of Normanton Down.

David M Jones,

*Editor*

## Postal pouch boxes

Following discussions between English Heritage and the Royal Mail, postal pouch boxes will be progressively removed from the nation's stock of pillar boxes as part of a rolling refurbishment programme. New equipment has been devised to enable delivery pouches to be stored inside many existing pillar boxes. In future, street storage will be used only when it is absolutely unavoidable. A new free-standing pouch box has been designed for exactly such situations. Local managers have been sent guidelines, which specify that these should be sited unobtrusively and in positions discrete from existing post boxes.

Philip Davies

*Conservation, North and East London*

## Helping with site management in East Anglia

*English Heritage has taken the rare step of grant-aiding the acquisition of three archaeological sites in East Anglia by the Norfolk Archaeological Trust (NAT). Philip Walker, from Conservation Anglia Team, explains English Heritage's land management policy and the thinking behind this unusual decision*

## **The wider context**

It may be helpful to set this initiative in its wider context, in terms of English Heritage's policy on land acquisition grants and on broader land management issues in East Anglia. Our Historic Buildings and Monuments grants scheme, which provided the acquisition grants, is normally used (in the case of scheduled ancient monuments) to help secure urgent repairs to important structures and earthworks. It is relatively unusual for us to grant-aid acquisition. We need to be persuaded that this is appropriate in the particular circumstances prevailing, and that if we do so the body acquiring a site has adequate resources to ensure longer-term maintenance.

Why did English Heritage grant-aid acquisitions by NAT? First, NAT was prepared to return substantial arable areas to grassland in the case of all three of the scheduled ancient monuments. Damaging ploughing therefore gave way to improved management on a long-term basis. In turn, management by a local trust has given local communities a stake in running sites that are familiar and cherished parts of the village and rural scenes, as well as ancient monuments with a national status. Further, an excellent opportunity has been provided for integrated monument management and interpretation, reflecting both archaeological and ecological issues. One of our aims is to make ancient monuments interesting and enjoyable for the public. Interpretation schemes at all three sites will achieve this goal and reflect our view that effective policies for historic landscape conservation must form part of wider strategies designed to achieve conservation, in its widest sense, and agricultural support. Partnership with, for example, the Countryside Commission, English Nature and the National Rivers Authority at Burgh Castle helped us to achieve our aims more effectively.

The issue of local management is relevant in another respect at Burgh Castle. The Roman fort is in the care of English Heritage under a guardianship deed. We are actively engaged in negotiating a local management agreement with NAT, whereby the guardianship area would be managed by them and integrated fully with the rest of the site, including the fairly large scheduled area.

## **Focusing our attention**

By involving local management partners, our sites can often receive more focused attention than we can achieve from a distance, and English Heritage gains the chance to involve directly many more people in protecting and promoting their history, thus building on our educational role. An acquisition grant for Burgh has enabled the dovetailing of Conservation Group and Historic Properties policies: the management of the wider setting of the ruins will be much improved, local people will feel they have an even stronger stake in the site, and interpretation and visitor access (to the whole site including the fort) will be improved. The Parish Council has agreed initially, with the help of Great Yarmouth Borough Council, to fund a warden.

The Parish Council is also involved at Tasburgh Iron Age hillfort, where it has taken on day-to-day site management. At Caistor Roman town, management is being passed from NAT to South Norfolk District Council, which currently bears the running costs.

## **Other schemes**

We have also collaborated with Norfolk County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council on agency agreements which have devolved responsibility for positive management of scheduled monuments to local authorities. Other such schemes are operational in Berkshire, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Peak and Dartmoor National Parks. In the case of the Norfolk Monuments Management Project, over 40 management agreements have been concluded between the County Council and owners and occupiers under Section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. In the



last five years English Heritage has given £26,819 in grant-aid to the County Council to enable appropriate positive additional management work. The selection of sites and the details of work involved are agreed in advance with English Heritage. While we have to control the funds carefully, we welcome the initiative.

In addition, more than 90 owners and occupiers in Norfolk have agreed to carry out substantial capital works (such as scrub clearance, stock fencing and rabbit control), followed by annual management, without grant-aid. This is a very welcome development. Practical results of this approach may be seen on the ground in many cases. The Norfolk initiative is supported by the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the National Farmers Union and the County Landowners Association, all of which have representatives on the project's management committee.

The local paper, the *Eastern Daily Press*, has helped by carrying articles by Helen Paterson, the Project Officer and until recently one of our Field Monument Wardens, under the title 'Our hidden heritage'.

Successful conservation work must win hearts and minds if it is to have an enduring impact. The initiatives of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust have been greatly helped by the commitment of local people to their sites.

For the future, the Heritage Lottery Fund can now help with acquisitions and capital projects, and this may provide an opportunity for safeguarding other archaeological sites, in Norfolk and elsewhere.

Philip Walker

*Conservation, Anglia Team*

## Monument conservation through land purchase



*Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk: aerial view of north-west area of Roman Venta Icenorum showing parch marks along the lines of the former streets of the town*

*Norfolk Archaeological Trust has bought three archaeological sites to conserve them. Peter Wade-Martins, the driving force behind the acquisitions, writes about the complex packages of grant-aid, led by grants from EH, which enabled the sales to go ahead*

Since the 1920s Norfolk has played a leading role in countryside conservation by using purchase as a mechanism for protecting endangered areas. In 1926 the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust was the first county naturalists' trust to be formed, and it now owns or manages 38 reserves covering nearly 7,000 acres of heath, fen, woodland and marsh in the county. In the same year Norfolk Archaeological Trust was also created, but its conservation role developed more slowly, concentrating mainly on owning and protecting a limited number of historic buildings. Recently, however, the Norfolk Archaeological Trust has become more active and is now following a path which may provide a model for archaeologists in other counties.

Norfolk is a largely arable area where the loss and erosion of earthworks has been particularly severe (one could say catastrophic) since the Second World War. Much of the ploughing of old grassland and the levelling of earthworks was carried out by farmers

particularly, in the 1950s and 1960s, with the active encouragement of the Ministry of Agriculture when the need to increase food production was the over-riding concern. In retrospect, one has to say that: if archaeologists had followed the example of their naturalist colleagues and put similar resources into conservation, the survival of historic landscapes in such arable areas would be much greater than it is today. Acquisition of farmland is much cheaper than rescue excavation. Even the best Grade 1 arable land has not normally been more than £3,000 an acre, and in recent years most farmland in East Anglia has been changing hands at £1,500–£1,800 an acre. Prices have recently risen with improved profitability of cereals, but purchase as a conservation measure still makes very good economic sense.

While the new agricultural support system now has a strong bias towards conservation and the protection of existing grassland, sites of archaeological importance on arable land are still being damaged by ploughing and subsoiling. There is a 'class consent' under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act which allows farmers to plough to normal depth and erode a scheduled monument without fear of prosecution, provided it was under plough during the five years up to 1981, when the 1979 Act came into effect, and also in the six years up to present. There are many important *unscheduled* sites and known cropmark complexes being ploughed and subsoiled which have no protection. Subsoiling can be immensely damaging and goes far deeper than ploughing. Scheduling cannot easily protect the setting of a monument or ensure public awareness of it. Most monuments are in private ownership and therefore access to them is frequently limited, with few being adequately interpreted for the visitor. Much more could and should be done to conserve monuments and to make them more accessible to the public.

### **National Trust purchases**

The National Trust bought the Saxon Shore Fort at Brancaster in north-west Norfolk in 1984, then under arable, and put the site down to grass. Then it purchased the very fine and rather vulnerable little motte and bailey castle at Denton near Burgay in 1990. I well remember first spotting that Denton Castle was available through a small advertisement in the *Eastern Daily Press*: 'Ancient Monument for sale'.

The National Trust has demonstrated that it has a role to play in monument conservation, particularly when it has an opportunity to acquire sites of particular national importance. Good conservation, however, needs a healthy mix of national and local bodies able to work in this field.

### **New county initiative**

The Norfolk Archaeological Trust has acquired three important sites over the last five years to stop plough damage and improve public access. Finance has been based on a package of funding which varies from site to site, but it has usually involved generous grants from English Heritage, the relevant local authorities and the Countryside Commission.

All this is not as simple as it sounds though; any county archaeologist embarking on a similar campaign will soon discover that it is still easier to raise money for excavation in advance of development than it is for land acquisition. The procedures for funding rescue excavations and post-excavation work have been well established over the last 30 years, but grants for purchase are less structured, doubtless because purchase has been little thought of.

The following three examples should illustrate what can be achieved by purchase.

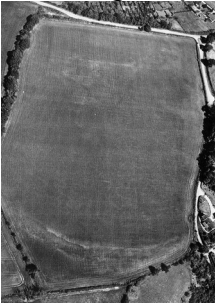
### **Caistor St Edmund Roman Town**

In 1983 Mrs Edith Hawkins died and generously left as a bequest the defended area of Caistor St Edmund Roman town, with its surrounding defensive bank, to the Norfolk

Archaeological Trust. The rest of the estate had been sold in the 1960s, and the bequest unfortunately did not include the town ditch, the extra-mural street pattern, the Roman suburbs, or the amphitheatre. So an active purchasing policy was initiated, and as opportunities arose the Trust acquired additional land so that it now owns the whole block between the River Tas to the west and the Norwich to Stoke Holy Cross road to the east.



*Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk: aerial view of Roman Venta Icenorum from the south, including crop mark of amphitheatre (arrowed at lower left)*



*Tasburgh, Norfolk: aerial view of hillfort at Tasburgh from west, including eroded rampart in foreground*

Just as the Trust was becoming active at Caistor, the Countryside Commission launched its excellent, conservation-led Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This provides the grants so necessary for arable reversion schemes. Annual payments help to cover the difference in profitability between intensive arable systems and less productive grass farming. The scheme also assists with the capital costs of seeding, fencing, gates and water troughs and will help with public access measures. Under Stewardship, the landowner signs up to a 10-year commitment to convert from arable to pasture using a mix of old-fashioned and less productive grasses and not to use herbicides, insecticides or lime during the agreement period. The 'Historic Landscapes' provision within Countryside Stewardship is ideal for projects such as Caistor.

An immensely complicated funding package of about £250,000 from English Heritage, the Countryside Commission, the County Council, the District Council, the Norfolk Museums Service, Anglian Water, Shell UK and the Norfolk Archaeological Trust has covered land acquisition, consolidation of the Roman defensive walls, grassland establishment, a car park, steps over the Roman defences and a series of interpretation panels.

At Caistor the field in the original bequest was already down to grass but, after purchase, the surrounding fields were seeded by the Trust under the Stewardship Scheme. Prior to the grass seed germinating, all the ready-sown land was examined by fieldwalking and metal detectors. (It is now standard practice for the Trust to organise fieldwalking and metal detector surveys after the last ploughing.) We expect, and indeed hope, that there will never be a further opportunity for such surveys on these sites, and the academic rewards certainly justify the effort involved.

Finally, on a wonderful sunny day in June 1993 the site and all 120 acres of grassland then in the ownership of the Trust was declared open by Sir John Johnson, Chairman of the Countryside Commission. The interpretation panels devised by Susan White of the

Norfolk Museums Service were very well received, and the Trust has won five awards for the project: the British Archaeological Award for conservation of a monument (1994), Virgin Group Award for the best presentation of an archaeological project (1994), Interpret Britain Award for contributing to greater awareness of Britain's Heritage (1994), Anglian Water Caring for the Environment Award (1995), and a Norfolk Society Award for conservation and interpretation of the Roman town (1995).

Since April 1995 the Trust has passed the routine management of the property over to South Norfolk District Council, which has been particularly supportive to the project. Running costs are now borne by the District Council.

Caistor gave the Trust confidence to move on, first to purchase the 15-acre hillfort at Tasburgh and then to Burgh Castle.

## Tasburgh

Tasburgh, one of only a handful of Iron Age hillforts in Norfolk, had been under plough for several years and when the site was advertised for sale in October 1993, the Trust started negotiations with the landowner. These led to the purchase of the property in 1994 with grants from English Heritage and the County and District Councils and the Parish Council. Compared with Caistor, the Tasburgh site is small and relatively straightforward. The earthworks had been suffering from plough damage, but the site was all grassed over under a Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Kissing gates have been erected giving the public access into the field. The Parish Council has been entrusted with day-to-day site management and it has certainly been a pleasure to provide the Tasburgh community with a new public open space in the centre of the village.

## Burgh Castle



*Burgh Castle, Norfolk: aerial view of Roman Fort of the Saxon Shore from north-east*

In March 1995 the Trust took on its most complex project yet, with the acquisition of the Saxon Shore fort at Burgh Castle, with grants from English Heritage, the Countryside Commission, the Broads Authority, and the District and Parish Councils. The property covers the fort walls in the guardianship of English Heritage, the surrounding arable fields, which contain crop marks, and reed beds running down to the River Waveney; the whole comprises about 90 acres. The Roman fort is in a beautiful location overlooking the Waveney, the Halvergate Marshes and Berney Arms Windmill, which is also in English Heritage guardianship. The fort has been presented to the public for many years with low-key access. The surrounding land has at various times been under development pressure and there is also a caravan park close by. The Trust's ownership of a sizeable area provides the opportunity and need for an integrated management scheme to improve public access, to provide better site interpretation, to protect the setting of the monument and to develop conservation policies for the surrounding land. How to conserve the freshwater reed beds at a time when the collapsing river bank is allowing increasing salt water inundation at high tides is a difficult issue yet to be resolved.

The purchase grants had conditions attached to them requiring the Trust to produce a Management Plan, which was agreed in September following detailed consultation with over 20 interested organisations. There is now much to do to implement these

management proposals. The Trust has been offered a Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the land has been ploughed and the new grass mix is beginning to come through. The Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group, supported by a surveyor from the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, has organised surveys by fieldwalking and metal detector with local detector enthusiasts. About 1,500 metal objects, mostly Roman coins, have been retrieved and accurately plotted using an electronic theodolite.

The Norfolk Museums Service is drawing up a new site interpretation scheme, the Broads Authority is designing a car park, the District Council is providing advice on disabled access, the RSPB is organising a bird survey of the reed beds, the Norfolk Flora Society is carrying out a survey of the plant life, and the Parish Council has indicated its willingness to employ a temporary warden. This spirit of cooperation will carry the project forward; indeed a close working relationship such as this between all the interested parties is essential if any project is to succeed. The support of the local community is also essential, and it is pleasing that the Parish Council is so willing to be involved.

## The way forward

The Trust is seeking to strike a balance on all their properties to ensure that they are accessible to the public, but at the same time visitor pressure must not be allowed to build up to a level where the special atmosphere of a place and its archaeology is disturbed. Each site needs to be handled differently.

The Norfolk Museums Service has provided the main thrust behind these initiatives and will continue to play a leading role in supporting the Trust in its valuable work.

Peter Wade-Martins

*County Field Archaeologist, Norfolk Museums Service, and Archaeological adviser to Norfolk Archaeological Trust*

## Streamlining listed building procedures



*Images from Protecting our heritage. Left to right, Stokesay Castle, Shropshire; the Willis Coroon office building, Ipswich; Nunney Castle, Somerset and Tintern Abbey, Monmouthshire*



*Above: Protecting our heritage, the consultation document prepared for the Department of National Heritage and the Welsh Office*

*Procedures for listed building consent seem, in many cases, to be unnecessarily complicated, slow and costly. To improve this situation, as well as to improve cost-effectiveness, we are proposing new ways to simplify applications without diminishing their effectiveness and to give applicants speedier decisions on them*

Local authorities determine the overwhelming majority of applications for listed building consent (lbc). Before doing so they must invite, through notification, the expert and objective advice of English Heritage on cases involving the most important listed buildings

(Grades I and II\*), Grade II buildings where drastic changes are proposed, and on all cases in Greater London. These documents, and local authorities' own applications, are also subject to formal scrutiny in relation to national policy, as set out in *PPG15, Planning and the historic environment*, by either English Heritage or the Secretary of State for the Environment, or both, before consent can be given.

English Heritage fully supports the objective of these procedures, but we believe that they should be streamlined to make them simpler and less costly to administer by local authorities, Government Offices and ourselves, and, above all, to give applicants more rapid decisions. This could, we believe, be achieved without diminishing their effectiveness.

## Existing arrangements

At present, there are three separate procedures for scrutinising applications which local authorities are minded to approve, all of which are subsequent to the notification procedure:

**Private applications outside Greater London.** If a local authority is minded to grant listed building consent for work to a Grade I or Grade II\* building, or involving substantive demolition to a Grade II building, it must first refer the application to the Secretary of State. He then seeks the advice of English Heritage as to whether to call in the application for his own decision, or allow the authority to determine it. The papers travel from the local authority to the Government Regional Office, then on to English Heritage in London, then back to the Regional Office, which then informs the local authority of its decision. This rather lengthy procedure applied to some 2,350 cases in 1995 (an increase of approximately seven per cent on 1994), of which an average of about 15 are recommended for call-in each year. About half will then be withdrawn, with about six being called in; our advice to do so generally tends to be rejected in two or three further cases.

**Private applications within Greater London.** London borough councils must notify English Heritage of all applications for listed building consent that they are minded to approve. We must then either direct the authority to refuse the application, or authorise it to grant consent with specified conditions or as it thinks fit. Before taking a decision, we must – unless it is going to issue a direct refusal – notify the Secretary of State of the application, in order to give him the opportunity to intervene if he thinks it necessary. The result is that the papers travel from the borough council to English Heritage, thence to the Government Office for London, thence back to English Heritage, so that we can authorise the borough to determine the case. This procedure applied to some 3,930 cases in 1995 (an increase of more than 13 per cent on 1994). However, it is rarely necessary to use the power of direct refusal, and no cases have been called in by the Secretary of State under this procedure for many years.

**Local authorities' own applications.** These are made direct to the Secretary of State, who, before determining them, must, if the authority wishes, give it the opportunity of a hearing before an inspector. In practice, the Government Regional Office concerned seeks the advice of English Heritage before, in the vast majority of cases, granting consent. But indirect negotiation between English Heritage and applicants via a Government Office, to bring applications to a form for which consent might reasonably be granted, is confusing for applicants and causes delay. This procedure applied to 690 cases in both 1994 and 1995.

## The need for change

The Government's proposal to revise the directions in order to align the categories of applications which must be notified and referred, and the simplified definition of substantive demolition, are very welcome. Nevertheless, the system still seems hugely bureaucratic, largely because, outside London, the advisory role once exercised by

specialist staff within the Department of the Environment was externalised when English Heritage was created in 1984, thereby creating a double bank of procedures. At the time, the intention then was to protect applicants from the imposition of unreasonable controls by a non-departmental body. It still remains important to ensure that decisions on truly contentious cases involve the Secretary of State, but we suggest that in the light of experience applicants would benefit from simpler and more rapid determination of the vast majority of quite uncontroversial applications.

The London procedures are a result of English Heritage inheriting the powers of the former Greater London Council in 1986, which were even then anomalous in that they originated at a time when all lbc cases were dealt with by county rather than district planning authorities. Since 1993, we have entered into Conservation Agreements with 22 London boroughs, responsible for about 75 per cent of lbc applications. This has enabled us to authorise those boroughs to deal with proposals for minor alterations and extensions to Grade II listed buildings as they see fit. However, under present legislation every application must be specifically authorised by both English Heritage and the Secretary of State.

Determination of what are essentially local matters at the local level has proved generally popular and effective, and there is no evidence that standards have diminished as a result. We believe that it would now be logical to move to a position where local planning authorities in London have the right to determine minor listed building consent applications without external reference, as they do elsewhere. However, rather than simply bringing London under the same provisions as the rest of the country, as the Consultation document suggests, it seems to us desirable to set in place a single, nationally applicable, and above all, efficient and effective procedure for the monitoring of sensitive cases.

### **The English Heritage proposals are summarised below:**

planning authorities would (as most already do) provide a full copy of relevant applications at notification stage

the types of application subject to notification would generally be those affecting Grade I or Grade II\* buildings, or involving substantive demolition of Grade II buildings; but in London, other proposals could be included, for example ones affecting theatres and Underground stations, where the specialist expertise of English Heritage, or its regional overview, are particularly valued by boroughs

subject to their agreement, the national amenity societies should all be notified of the same descriptions of application as English Heritage, which would simplify the handling of notifications by local authorities

local authorities should send referral cases to Government Regional Offices via English Heritage, so reducing handling time by about a week; it would only be necessary for the authority to send papers additional to the notification

English Heritage should be able to sift out at this stage and rapidly return to the local authority for determination those applications (the majority) which are not contentious only exceptionally significant or controversial cases would be referred to the Secretary of State, although onward referral could be mandatory in some cases, perhaps for the substantive demolition of a Grade I or Grade II\* listed building, or for the total demolition of a Grade II building

English Heritage should have a reserve right to put its case to a public inquiry if it so elects; our experience has been that the greater certainty of English Heritage's current position in London compared to the rest of the country has resulted in fewer, rather than more, cases going to inquiry

local authorities should make applications in the same way as private applicants, but *all* such applications should be notified, and subsequently referred to English Heritage. It is

likely that at least 75 per cent would be immediately dealt with by English Heritage as uncontroversial

local authority applications should be defined as those 'affecting buildings in which the local authority has an interest', and so encompass, for example, applications by contractors engaged on a 'design and build' basis on local authority projects

Paul Drury

*Regional Director, Conservation, London and the South East*

## **Joining forces to save our churches**

*The advent of new sources for grant money for churches and other places of worship from the National Lottery has enabled us to devise a new scheme to facilitate applications and the distribution of grants through a single procedure*

A joint grants programme between English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund for churches in England will be launched in the autumn. Applications under the joint scheme will be welcomed from all denominations and religions, Christian and non-Christian, for grants towards historic places of worship in use, whatever they may be called. However, the scheme will not cover cathedrals or churches no longer in use, which will need to continue to make applications separately to each organisation in the manner that is now in operation.

## **New resources from the Lottery**

The advent of the National Lottery has meant the availability of significant new resources for grants to historic churches and a number of grant offers have already been made. English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which is responsible for the Heritage Lottery Fund, have worked together to produce a single procedure whereby those church committees in England that wish to seek lottery funding can apply for English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund support through a single route.

Both organisations have statutory powers to fund work to churches, but as these differ to some extent, each body can fund a different, but overlapping range of work. The joint scheme is designed to make it easier for congregations or church supporters to apply for grants. All applications for grants will, however, be processed by English Heritage either in its own right or as the agent for the Heritage Lottery Fund. Each organisation will decide how much should be contributed from its own resources, but all works that the congregation wish to carry out will be considered together to determine an appropriate level of support for the whole package.

## **Coordinated effort**

English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund consider that a coordinated approach within an agreed overall budget for church grants should be of major benefit to applicants, both in simplifying bureaucratic procedures for administering and managing grants and in giving congregations security of funding for larger scale projects.

Some church authorities or congregations may not wish to seek Lottery funding on moral grounds. An individual congregation, or denomination, such as the Methodists, which does not wish to seek Lottery funding will be able to say so on the application form and English Heritage will then process the application wholly within its own repair grant scheme.

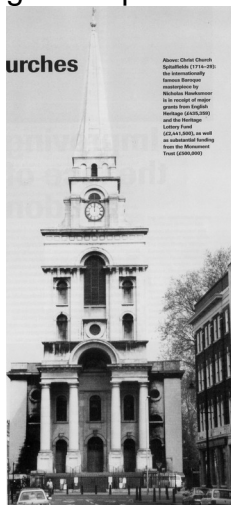
However, English Heritage works to a more restricted remit than the Heritage Lottery Fund and can only provide funding for major and urgent repairs to the historic fabric of churches that are of outstanding architectural or historic interest, that is, at least Grade II\* quality.

Within its own church grant scheme English Heritage cannot grant-aid projects such as



those for Grade II buildings, repairs to bells, organs or churchyards. However, these would all be eligible for assistance under the joint scheme because the Heritage Lottery Fund has a wider remit.

Even under the joint scheme only church buildings of significant heritage interest are covered. Those which are not listed and are outside conservation areas are unlikely to be considered. Applications will be considered in respect of the church itself, its contents, any associated buildings and any surrounding churchyard, including any buildings or monuments within it where these are judged to be of significant heritage merit. These may be for repairs, but may also be for alterations or improvements. Priority will be given to structural repairs, and grants for improvements will not normally be offered unless any urgent repairs are also being dealt with. Where projects other than repairs seem intended to serve the interests or the mission of the congregation rather than provide for more general public benefit, they fall outside the scope of the scheme.



*Christ Church Spitalfields (1714–29): the internationally famous Baroque masterpiece by Nicholas Hawksmoor is in receipt of major grants from English Heritage (£435,359) and the Heritage Lottery Fund (£2,441,500), as well as substantial funding from the Monument Trust (£500,000)*

## **Best practices encouraged**

As far as possible within the respective legal and financial frameworks of each organisation, the joint scheme is intended to encourage best conservation practice, ensuring that the necessary fabric maintenance and repair and the conservation of fittings and contents is carried out; to provide funds for developments which will enhance the heritage benefit of the building; and at the same time to give parishes greater certainty and continuity in funding, to allow them to take strategic decisions on the care and use of their buildings and sites as a whole. The funding programme has initially been agreed for three years and it will be reviewed carefully to ensure that its objectives are being met.

In developing the scheme English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have consulted bodies such as the Churches Main Committee and the Working Party of the General Synod. If you would like further details about what is proposed please contact the Lottery Focal Point, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB; telephone: 0171 973 3266.

Sally Embree

*Policy and Research Team*

## Improving the face of London



*Small block paving in arbitrary patterns has eroded the character and appearance of many areas*



*Hadley Village, Barnet: traffic calming can reinforce local character if traditional designs and devices, integrated into the wider townscapes, are used*

*The face of London – its streets and pavements – greet residents, commuters, visitors and tourists. English Heritage hopes to restore the innate sense of visual order that has been obscured in many places in the capital by the clutters of street furniture that accompany many recent traffic schemes*

### Street clutter

The impact of traffic is one of the greatest challenges facing the historic built environment. New road schemes, traffic calming measures, the suburbanisation of the countryside and the demand for more street furniture and signs have seriously eroded the character and appearance of many areas. In many places the sense of visual order has been undermined with a corresponding collapse of civic pride. In April English Heritage held a conference to examine the impact of these factors on London and to explore ways of solving the problems.

The highly successful conference was of particular interest to local authority highway engineers, planners, conservation staff, councillors, urban designers and local societies. Speakers included Derek Turner, the Traffic Director for London, Bill Mount, the Chief Highways Engineer from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Colin Davis, an urban design consultant to the Civic Trust and representatives from the Highways Agency and Department of Transport.

### London's face – London's fortune

In 1995 London attracted 12.5 million visitors, generating an expenditure of £7 billion. Successive surveys have confirmed that the main reasons people come to visit or work, are its parks, museums, history and heritage. London's face is literally its fortune, so investment in the public realm and improvements to the visual appearance of the capital's streets, is not some dispensable extra, but fundamental to its importance as a world city. Streets are places in their own right, and not just routes which take us from A to B. In too many areas London's streets, which were once renowned for their visual order, are a chaotic jumble of bollards, signs, posts, poles and cheap paving, which seriously undermine its international attraction.

There was a broad consensus among delegates that effective solutions can be found by applying innovative new approaches to common problems and by developing the principles of integrated townscape management. *PPG15, Planning and the historic environment* stresses unequivocally that 'Local highway and planning authorities should integrate their activities and take great care to avoid or minimise impacts on the various elements of the historic environment and their settings'. This has been reinforced recently by the Government Office for London's report on *London's urban environment: planning for quality*. This acknowledges that responsibility for the public realm is fragmented and

unclear, and calls for the creation of area-based public realm management teams in one of its 10 key recommendations.

## **Multi-disciplinary approach**

English Heritage believes that a multi-disciplinary approach is essential. Local authorities must lead by example. Each should nominate urban design/conservation staff with responsibility for townscape management, coordinating the corporate activities of the council and other agencies in a proactive way. Good design is not an optional extra requiring extraordinary effort. It should be normal working practice achieved through day-to-day multi-disciplinary cooperation based on a holistic approach to urban management. The conference highlighted the view that the greatest single improvement would be for councils to carry out systematic street audits, in conjunction with local societies, to remove as much street furniture as possible. A recent sample survey by English Heritage of three streets found that 70 per cent of street furniture was unnecessary, duplicated or redundant. Few authorities give any priority to its removal. Corporate responsibility is often fragmented and confused with no one charged with overall responsibility for managing the total street environment in an enlightened way.

Greater care was needed, it was felt, in designing environmental improvement schemes to ensure that the subtle relationship between the footway, highway and buildings is maintained, street furniture minimised, and the often fragile sense of place respected and enhanced. Too many schemes, it was argued, used short-term, low-cost options which detracted from, rather than enhanced, local character. Where resources are inadequate, it was considered essential to invest in quality, and to do less better, and to a higher standard, if necessary over a longer period of time.

## **Pavement schemes and traffic calming**

Many new paving schemes came in for very heavy criticism. London's streets were once characterised by rectangular 3 x 2 foot slab paving in York stone or concrete. Their rectangular proportion echoed the proportional system used on many of the adjacent buildings, creating an underlying system of order. The replacement of this neutral background with over-fussy small block materials was castigated. Discordant patterns, strident colours and arbitrary rhythms have severely undermined the character and appearance of many areas, and it was recommended that councils should prepare paving strategies and include them in conservation area statements and guidance.

Traffic calming presents great challenges to the coherence of historic areas. The conference heard that few schemes are ever designed to be integrated with the wider urban or rural context. Almost always standard techniques, designs and materials have been used, devastating local character. Multi-disciplinary cooperation is essential if mistakes are to be avoided. Several examples of good practice were illustrated, showing how traditional designs, materials and devices can be employed to reinforce local character, but that each device needed to be designed from its earliest stages and related to the character of the wider area.

## **Clearing street clutter**

English Heritage is determined to clear clutter from the streets and to reclaim them for people. This does not necessarily mean more pedestrianisation but trying to tip the balance in favour of the pedestrian, for example by creating pedestrian priority zones in city centres where vehicles are only allowed to circulate in 20mph zones on sufferance. The emerging challenge is to preserve the character and function of our historic areas in the face of increased traffic, and delegates listened with interest to Kim Cooper from the English Historic Towns Forum about its projects to create historic core pilot zones in several towns outside London.

## A streetscape manual

In London we are taking several major initiatives jointly with the London Boroughs to create exemplars of good practice which we hope to collate in to a streetscape manual to help make good design normal practice across the city. At a national level we are also collating a shopping list of desirable changes in traffic regulations and legislation in order to press for amendments based on best practice elsewhere in Europe. We would welcome specific recommendations for change. The conference closed by strongly endorsing the principles of integrated townscape management which local authorities should follow: adopt a multi-disciplinary approach; nominate an urban design/conservation officer as public realm coordinator and start a proactive programme of improvement by removing unnecessary street furniture

adopt a minimalist approach to street furniture and remove clutter; anticipate all requirements at the preliminary design stage; wherever possible locate traffic signals and signs on lamp columns or existing street furniture; avoid gratuitous advertising and other clutter; invite local societies to be proactive and carry out street audits for Councils to remove redundant or superfluous street furniture

ensure that all highway works are designed to respect the wider urban or rural context; when siting street furniture, use the whole street width and carefully relate items to the buildings and townscape features; use a single, dark colour for street furniture

for traffic calming, only use devices and materials which can be integrated in to the established character of the area with minimum visual impact; use natural materials such as granite setts, bound gravel or cobbles; reduce signs to the minimum size and quantity avoid using small paving modules and brick pavements laid in arbitrary or discordant colours and patterns; as a general rule for paving, use traditional 3 x 2 foot paving slabs laid conventionally in staggered courses; where additional strength is required, use a concrete base; include paving and street furniture strategies in conservation area statements and guidelines

on shared surfaces, retain kerbs to minimise bollards

invest in quality; where resources are inadequate, never compromise on quality; do less, better; if more money is needed, can the Heritage Lottery Fund help? What about S.106 agreements with developers?

upgrade tarmac footways with low-cost bound gravel dressings to improve their appearance

liaise with other key agencies with demands on the public realm to coordinate their requirements and provide guidance on siting, design, materials and liveries; locate recycling facilities in off street locations, wherever possible, and coordinate their design and colour

consider the combined impact of works to the public realm with those on adjacent private sites to avoid visual conflict and to maximise quality



*A multi-disciplinary approach is essential if clutter is to be avoided. At Goldington Crescent Camden Town the foreground clutter detracts from the setting of listed buildings and the protected London square*

Philip Davies

*Conservation, North and East London*

## The 'Gardens Register'



*Kirby Hall, Northamptonshire: the Great Garden in summer 1985*

The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England was first completed as a set of written entries in county volumes published between 1984 and 1988. The amendment to the General Development Order in June 1995, and the accompanying Directories, require that local authorities consult English Heritage and the Garden History Society on applications for development affecting registered gardens. This, as well as the increasing extent to which these gardens are protected by policies in development plans, has underlined the need to verify existing entries, and to improve the coverage of the Register.

Sites boundary maps have now been drawn for all registered sites, and a programme to confirm ownership and renotify all known owners is nearly complete. This exercise, involving discussion with owners and their agents, has proved extremely useful in identifying where the accuracy of the existing entries could be improved and, on the basis of additional historic information, where the registered site's boundaries need adjustment. In response to queries, legal opinion has been sought, which has clarified the statutory basis on which English Heritage compiles the Register. While there is some anxiety among owners about the weight now being given to the protection of registered gardens in local authority statutory development plans, there continues to be pressure to add further sites to the Register to safeguard them from unsuitable development. There is also concern about the impact of conservation areas controls, particularly on tree management, where registered gardens are also covered by conservation area designation.

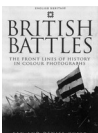
We are therefore planning to increase resources to speed up the review of the Register, already under way, with a view to completing this exercise by 2000. The exercise will involve both upgrading existing entries and adding new sites where there are clear omissions.

Lorna McRobie

*Director of Gardens and Landscape*

## BOOKS

### Through the eyes of ordinary soldiers



*British battles: the front lines of history in colour photographs, by Ken and Denise Guest, 1996, published by HarperCollins in association with English Heritage, £19.99 (hardback); available from English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton NN6 9RY, or call 01604 781163 (product code XC10854)*

The privations and perils of Britain's ordinary frontline soldiers, fighting hand-to-hand in the heat and clamour of historic battles through the centuries, are vigorously recounted from

their standpoint in *British battles*, a new, lavishly illustrated book from HarperCollins and English Heritage.

From the Viking invasions of the 10th century to the English Civil War and Jacobite risings, this stimulating book reveals exactly how tough, precarious and uncompromising the ordinary soldier's life must have been. *British battles* offers a new and lively insight into 57 British and Scottish battles with more than 350 colour photographs. Written and photographed by film-makers and photojournalists Ken and Denise Guest, who have reported on military actions in such locations as the Gulf and Cambodia, the book is full of re-enactment photographs which dramatically illustrate each battle.

Relentless marches, the clash of steel swords and axes, the blood, gore and gangrene of horrific wounds – all are brought vividly to life in this fascinating book, which enables the reader to imagine the clammy mists of Culloden and the cold, stomach-wrenching apprehension which soldiers must have felt as Highlanders charged, or the daunting fear of cavalymen rushing headlong at ranks of pikemen.

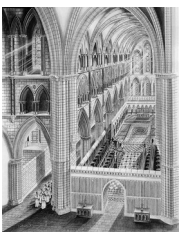
Readers are taken through a colour history of the Battle of Hastings in 1066, which portrays the ferocity of the day-long struggle and gives an insight into the feelings of an English infantryman in King Harold's close-packed ranks, repeatedly repelling mounted Norman charges and enduring a rain of arrows. Readers find out how soldiers fought with a Saxon two-handed axe, a Welsh longbow, crossbows, medieval cannon, pikes, cutlasses and matchlock and flintlock muskets. How soldiers – and even camp followers – survived in the field and when effective, if painful, treatment for wounds was available.

This unusual book features all 43 English battles whose fields are afforded a degree of protection from development by English Heritage's new Register of Historic Battlefields – from the savage attacks of the Vikings at the Battle of Maldon, Essex in 991, to England's largest and bloodiest battle ever at Towton in 1461, to emotive actions such as Bosworth in 1485, Flodden in 1513, Newbury 1 in 1643, Marston Moor in 1644, Naseby and Rowton Heath in 1645, and Sedgemoor in 1685, the last pitched battle fought on English soil.

Gerry Bartlett

*Publicity Officer, Publications*

## The monastic calling



*Reconstruction of Rievaulx Abbey, North Yorkshire, showing early 13th-century Cistercian presbytery, a fine setting for the high altar and St Aelred's shrine*



Life in a medieval abbey, by Tony McAleavy, 1996, *English Heritage Gatekeeper Series*, £6.95; available from *English Heritage Postal Sales*, PO Box 229, Northampton NN6 9RY; or call 01604 781163 (product code BC2934)

For nearly 1,000 years monasteries dominated the landscape of England and the lives of countless English people. Monks and nuns committed themselves to a unique way of life: cloistered away from the world, they submitted themselves to the austere surroundings and rigorous discipline laid down by their order. Not all were motivated by piety alone,

however, and throughout the Middle Ages a fascinating variety of people joined the monasteries, from saints and statesmen to rogues and runaways. At the same time monks and nuns made an incalculable contribution to the cultural life of the country, as artists, historians, doctors and thinkers.

In *Life in a medieval abbey*, Tony McAleavy brings this long-lost world to life in a rich, colourful volume, combining a wealth of illustrations from medieval sources with modern reconstruction drawings that reflect the latest thinking on monastic life. Part one gives the reader a sense of what it was like to live in an abbey at the height of the Middle Ages. It explains the daily timetable of prayer and work, analyses the different orders, and includes such topics as recruitment, the power of the abbot, and builders and craftsmen.

Part two travels back in time to consider how monasticism came to be established in Britain, from the first hermit monks of the Middle East, through the work of the influential Italian monk St Benedict, to the early flowering of monasticism in Britain in the Saxon period. The destruction wreaked by the Vikings, and the subsequent monastic revival, the coming of the Normans and the revolutionary influence of the Cistercian Order are also described in clear, concise detail.

Abbeys did not exist in isolation from the wider world. As the centres of vast estates fostering agricultural and industrial activity monasteries had a significant economic impact, while monks and nuns also operated in the world of politics as royal advisers. Sections devoted to the giving of alms, patronage and benefactors, and shrines and pilgrims emphasise the symbiosis between the religious houses and the secular world.

Although for centuries the monasteries must have seemed a fixed part of the medieval landscape, their story in Britain comes to a dramatic end with the dissolution. The widespread, though by no means universal, lapse in religious standards is discussed, together with the dissolution itself and the fate of former monks and nuns. The story is brought up to date with a discussion of the varied uses to which former monastic buildings have been put, and finally a gazetteer of sites to visit, many of them looked after by English Heritage, provides a reminder that our monastic heritage is far from dead.

*Life in a medieval abbey* is the first title in English Heritage's new Gatekeeper Series, which aims to bring the past to life through lively, highly illustrated texts. A second title (to be published later this year), *Picturing the past* by Brian Davison, portrays through some magnificent reconstruction drawings aspects of life in Britain from prehistoric times to the Tudors.

Kate Jeffrey

*Guidebook Editor, Publications*

## Caring for our industrial past



*Managing the industrial heritage: its identification, recording and management*, edited by Marilyn Palmer and Peter Neaverson, 1995, published by the School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, £14

In a world where pressures both on the heritage and on the time of those concerned with conserving it are ever-increasing, there is no time to re-invent wheels. The papers in this volume, which derive from a seminar in Leicester in July 1994, survey the landscape of industrial heritage management so that many people concerned with conserving our industrial heritage may be saved from just such misdirected effort.

The papers are divided into four groups: establishing what exists, putting sites in their contexts, assessing priorities and protecting sites of importance. Each section starts with a

review of past approaches from leaders in the field. Peter White's insider's view is especially illuminating. David Stocker's explanation of the approach of the Monuments Protection Programme to the industrial resource is particularly useful to those for whom waiting for the MPP has assumed Beckettesque overtones.

The 24 papers of the volume reveal industrial heritage management as a maturing sub-discipline. No longer obsessed with self-identity and separateness, industrial archaeologists are forging links with the mother discipline in a variety of ways. 'We must write history' pleads Kate Clark. We need to move towards a contextual industrial archaeology argue Shane Gould and Mike Williams. Here is industrial archaeology at last pursuing a contemporary theoretical agenda.

Providing further evidence of growing away from site-by-site preservation, there are papers on recording complex industrial landscapes in rural contexts by Neil Lang, Paul Everson and Rob White. Thematic studies also appear in the form of case studies on mineral tramway engine houses and, particularly topically, on the Coventry motor industry. Management issues are tackled too, notably in Martin Cherry's overview of the role of listing in the protection of the industrial heritage.

As a quick, current and accessible format for catching up on recent trends in industrial heritage management, this volume has much to commend it, not least its affordability. One can easily overlook the over-contrasted photographs (indeed, it is often more comfortable to do so!). One can even forgive the mistaken ascription of responsibility for the Iron Bridge itself in the preliminary pages – it is in fact in English Heritage's guardianship. On the whole the volume is slickly edited and tidily presented. I warmly commend it to fellow practitioners.

Andrew Brown

*Conservation, West Midlands*

## Bugs in buildings



Rot and insect infestation, edited by Lynne Carson Rickards, 1995, published by the Glasgow West Conservation Trust, 30 Cranworth Street, Hillhead, Glasgow, G12 8AG

This book comprises section 7.0 of the Glasgow West Conservation Trust *Conservation manual*. It provides an important overview of the subject, together with current thinking on approaches to treatment.

The first four sections deal competently with an introduction to wood biology followed by decay mechanisms and causal organisms. Most of the information included is covered in other publication, but this is inevitable. The only significant criticism would be directed at the table, 'Indications of fungal decay' (p 9). In the reviewer's opinion the criteria given are so simplified that they could be seriously misleading. For example, under 'Signs indicating wet rot' it lists 'timber soft and wet when pressed', which it mostly is not, and 'sparse, dark coloured strands growing on surface', which only occurs when cellar rot and a few rarer types of fungi are present. The presence of these symptoms might indicate wet rot attack, but the context suggests that they should be present as a diagnostic feature.

The sections on Health and safety, Consulting the professionals, Timber preservation training and Getting advice are particularly valuable, and bring together a range of information which is not available elsewhere. On a personal level, however, the reviewer is somewhat startled to learn that he has been 'trained' with Hutton and Rostron.

This is a worthwhile publication and provides a balanced approach to timber decay and its treatment.



## Reverent creatures



Wildlife in church and churchyard: plants, animals and their management, by Nigel Cooper, 1995, published by the Council for the Care of Churches, £6.95

This book was launched in November 1995 by the Council for the Care of Churches and the Church and Conservation Project with a one-day conference, for Diocesan Advisory Committees (DACs) and others, entitled *Wildlife in Church and Churchyard*.

The book's aim is to provide practical guidance for all those involved in the management of churchyards for wildlife. It draws on the experience of the Living Churchyard Project, and brings together material which might not otherwise be available in one place. It expands upon the advice given in *The Churchyards handbook*, but does not attempt to advise on the conservation of historic fabric or monuments.

As the author is a priest in the Church of England and has served on his local DAC since 1991, the advice applies principally to Church of England churchyards. The advice could, however, be applied equally to the burial places of other denominations and faiths, or to Local Authority cemeteries and crematoria.

The main text comprises five chapters on the principal wildlife habitats in churchyards – grassland, stonework, disturbed ground, trees, woodland – and on wanted and unwanted wildlife. Two introductory chapters consider the Christian's responsibility for wildlife conservation and the functions churchyards are required to fulfil. Nature conservation in relation to the structural and historic fabric of churches is considered, as are legal, planning and grant issues.

The key to successful conservation is the management plan and clear guidance is given on how to survey for wildlife and get local support in preparing this plan. The sections on habitats provide clear basic advice, including a table describing the options and wildlife implications of different forms of grassland management. The approach to conserving stonework is balanced with a desire to conserve our important wall flora, although specific advice should be sought in relation to maintenance of historic stonework. Unfortunately there is no mention, in this section, of the historic importance of individual monuments within the churchyard and the possibility that they might be listed. The desire for memorial tree planting, importance of trees as wildlife and landscape features, and the safety implications of trees in churchyards are all discussed. Advice on tree inspections is also given.

The chapter on wanted and unwanted wildlife includes consideration of wood-boring insects and rot in church timbers, of mice and of potential conflicts between bats and church fittings, and warns of the dangers of applying lacquers and other coatings to monuments. Appropriately, it concludes that specialist advice should be obtained on this subject, a view which is supported by the English Heritage research group looking at this issue.

The final sections suggest courses of action open to DACs and individual parishes and give useful references and addresses. Unfortunately, the address for the Bat Conservation Trust is out of date and English Nature churchyard grants are no longer available, so the book will need updating, as the author acknowledges.

This is a readable book with sensible advice on how to manage the churchyard with wildlife in mind. Further technical advice may be required on specific historic aspects and some wildlife issues.

Rachel Thomas

*Gardens and Landscape*

## A house in the country



The Georgian villa, *edited by Dana Arnold, 1996, published by Alan Sutton, £25*

After reading this stimulating book, I felt more than ever that I would like to live in a Georgian seaside villa! It is based on papers given at a two-day conference organised by the Georgian Group and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, held at the Royal Academy in 1995. Bringing together 13 established experts to examine the same subject could lead to repetition or lack of cohesion, but the work has been skilfully edited by Dana Arnold, who breaks it down into five logical sections. Her introduction looks at the 18th-century villa tradition in England in the wider context, relating its development from Palladian precedents, and she lists some of the more significant current publications on the subject.

Part I examines 'The legacy of the Renaissance'. Here Deborah Howard asserts the 'place' of the villa, looking back to Pliny and forward to Palladio, then analysing the Italian villa as a backdrop to the introduction of the 'villa' into 18th-century England. The villa in Britain became fashionable primarily as an idyllic country retreat for rich city merchants indulging a fantasy life of rusticity and informality.

Julius Bryant introduces Part II by discussing 'Contemporary attitudes to the Georgian villa'. He concentrates on the London Thames-side villas and Kenwood, Hampstead Heath, as described by 18th-century writers. He highlights the important influence of topographical engravings and tourist guides, which encouraged increasing visits by the better-off public.

'Jane Austin's aversion to villas' is explored in the literary context by Phillipa Tristram. She looks at their sociological significance, with their implied hint of the *nouveaux riches*.

Part III contains four contributions on 'Responses to Palladio'. Sally Jeffery reflects on John James as a disciple of Inigo Jones. She casts an interesting light on James's designs, as both he and Lord Burlington admired Jones, but says that James designed 'houses' not 'villas', though she concludes that the difference between the two can be hard to distinguish.

John Harris examines 'The transformation of Lord Burlington: from the Palladio and Jones of his time to the modern Vitruvius'. He explains how Burlington's tastes were honed through his exploration of Palladio's works, and his collecting of Palladio's drawings. Burlington also 'discovered' Inigo Jones.

In 'Some alternative sources for the early Georgian villa in Ireland' Sean O'Reilly asserts that the remoteness of Ireland suggests a liberation from the straight-jacket of pure Palladianism. He contrasts such houses as 'Powerscourt' and the far more modest 'Woodlands' in Co Dublin, and he argues that both could be interpreted as villas, as they are non-urban buildings with a significant recreational component.

Frank Salmon looks at 'British architects visiting Palladio's villas in the later Georgian period'. Despite the practical and political difficulties in crossing a divided Italy many aspiring architects made the pilgrimage to the Veneto, and to the Villas Rotunda and Malcontenta in particular.

Part IV explores the sources and influences behind the late Georgian Villa. In 'Villa variants' Alistair Rowan discusses Campbell, Gibbs, Ware, Taylor, Adam and their followers, up to George Richardson and his *New designs in architecture* (1792).

No treatise on Georgian villas can ignore Sir John Soane. David Watkin analyses 'Soane's concept of the villa' and examines the influence on Soane of his stay in Italy between 1778 and 1780 and his study of ancient and modern sources, including Castell's *Villas of the ancients* (produced under the auspices of Burlington). He also shows how Pitzhanger was influenced by the Villa Albani.

In Dana Arnold's, 'A family affair: Decimus Burton's designs for the Regents Park villas' we learn that Burton had attended the RA and was influenced by Soave. She demonstrates the tendency towards the suburbanisation of the villa in the 19th century.

Part V, 'Interpretations of the villa', comprises three papers. Lindsay Boynton describes 'The marine villa' and relates it back to Pliny at Laurentium. She explores the appreciation of 'Beauty in the sublime' through the writings of Mrs Ratcliffe and others, and discusses the romantic villas on the Isle of Wight and other resorts, such as Mr Fish's at Sidmouth and in the Lake District.

The marine theme is continued in 'The villas of Scotland's western seaboard' by Michael Davies, and the book concludes with the 'Modern Athens' by Ian Gow on the Edinburgh villa.

*The Georgian villa* tells us a great deal about the development of the form, its architects and patrons, and their inspirations, and it gives us an enjoyable topographical tour of the British Isles. It does tend to stick to the architectural 'high ground' and, inevitably, because it relates specifically to talks given at a seminar, it is not comprehensive in its coverage. For instance there is no chapter on the 'picturesque villa' as promoted in those charming, engraved, aquatinted copybooks of the late 18th and early 19th centuries by Rawlins, Crunden, Plaw, Lugar, Busby and Middleton, and by Papworth in Ackermann's Repository. Nevertheless, new ground is explored, and the book is a must for the serious student. It is illustrated in black and white, and includes notes and references and a good index. Alas, its price may be a deterrent!

Robin Wyatt

*Historic Properties, London*

## NOTES

### **Poacher turned gamekeeper**

In the last few months of 1995 and first few months of 1996 David Tomback FRICS, who is English Heritage's Property Advisor, gave a series of talks to property organisations such as RIOS and ISVA, as well as to individual firms of surveyors. David comes from a property background and, prior to joining English Heritage, spent 20 years in the private sector in a variety of posts as a professional chartered surveyor and as a developer/investor.

The talks provided a useful and informative introduction to English Heritage as an organisation and to legislation and valuation issues associated with historic buildings. Response to the talks has been positive. Speaking about the talks, David said, 'I have found these talks a useful opportunity both to inform my professional colleagues within the property industry about the role of English Heritage and also to dispel some of the myths surrounding the listing process and the false assumptions that are sometimes made. I believe that my background as a commercial surveyor helps a great deal in that I can relate both to property owners and their advisors. I hope that I am able to reassure them that English Heritage does understand their concerns and does try to give positive

assistance within the boundaries of its remit. My talks are also an excellent opportunity to receive feedback and I always try to distribute a selection of leaflets and guidance notes that English Heritage produces, which are always well received and praised.'  
If you would like to contact David Tomback please telephone 0171 973 3268.

## **New era in British Archaeology**

In May a new organisation, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), was formed to represent archaeologists in local authorities and national parks throughout England and Wales. The official launch of the association took place at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries in London, through a merger of the Association of County Archaeological Officers and the Association of District Archaeological Officers. The merger coincides with plans to create, in April 1997, a single Local Government Association to represent all local authorities in England and Wales.

ALGAO members are senior professional archaeologists in metropolitan authorities, English and Welsh shire counties, London boroughs, national parks and historic cities, towns and boroughs throughout England and Wales, as well as representatives from Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

The Chairman is Bob Croft, County Archaeologist for Somerset. For details contact Bob Croft (Chairman), Somerset County Council, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4DY, telephone 01823 255426, fax 01823 332773, e-mail [envir.rac@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:envir.rac@somerset.gov.uk); or Adrian Tindall (Publicity), Cheshire County Council, Commerce House, Hunter Street, Chester CH1 2QP, telephone 01244 603160, fax 01244 603110.

## **Call for applications**

Heritage Grant Fund 1997–98. The Department of National Heritage is seeking applications from voluntary organisations (ie organisations whose activities are carried out other than for profit) in England whose work relates to the Department's objectives for the historic environment, including buildings, monuments, gardens and industrial and underwater archaeology. The Department is particularly interested in projects directed towards identifying and recording the historic environment, promoting high standards in conservation practice, promoting understanding and enjoyment and looking at issues of access. The Heritage Grant Fund (HGF) is primarily targeted at national organisations but grants may also be offered for regional projects which provide an example of good practice for wider application. The Department will give preference to projects that demonstrate the active use of volunteers. Applicants will need to provide matching funds. Projects that are eligible for funding under other Departmental programmes – such as English Heritage Building Repair Grants or funding from the Museums and Galleries Commission – will not be considered under the HGF.

The closing date for 1997–98 applications is 30 September 1996. For details and application forms contact Tania Field or Luella Barker, Department of National Heritage, 3rd Floor, 2–4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH; telephone 0171 211 6367/8.

## **Publications**

### **EH: recent and forthcoming**

*Ships of the Port of London, twelfth to seventeenth centuries AD*, by Peter Marsden, 1996, £40 (product code XC10725: ISBN 1 85074 513 7). A companion volume to *Ships of the Port of London, first to eleventh centuries AD*, this volume focuses on the substantial remains of three local vessels: the Custom House boat, Blackfriars ship 3, a 15th-century sailing barge and Blackfriars ship 2, a barge which sank in about 1670. Through these remains Peter Marsden traces important changes in shipbuilding materials and

techniques, and relates the evidence to the many fragments of 16th- and 17th-century vessels reused in waterfronts and drains, as well as to contemporary illustrations and documentary records.

*Raunds Furnells, the Anglo-Saxon church and churchyard*, by Andy Boddington, forthcoming, £35 (product code XC10728; ISBN 1 85074 520 X). Located on the south side of the River Nene in east Northamptonshire, the 6th-century Anglo-Saxon settlement of Raunds Furnells was occupied for more than 300 years before its population grew large enough to merit its own church. The seemingly simple beginnings of the church were proved by excavation to be surprisingly complex. Liturgical features that do not often survive in other sites were uncovered, as well as a burial pattern in ordered zones.

### **Transactions and proceedings**

A new English Heritage Transactions series is planned by the Architectural Conservation Team to produce scientific and technical papers on their research programme. The transactions will be quarterly, and will be published by James & James (Science Publishers) Ltd. For further information please contact John Fidler, Head of Architectural Conservation, English Heritage, Room 527, 429 Oxford Street, telephone 0171 973 3665, fax 0171 973 3474.

English Heritage Conference Proceedings, *A future for the past*, a joint English Heritage and the Cathedral Architects Association conference, held 25–26 March 1994, was published and distributed last March. The papers report on preliminary findings of the first three years of strategic technical research in the Cathedral Grants Programme. Copies can be obtained through the retail trade by writing to James & James Ltd, Waterside House, 47 Kentish Town Road, London NW1 8NZ, telephone 0171 284 3833, fax 0171 284 3737, price £25.

The proceedings of the ICOM conference held in Maastricht on 6–8 April 1995 have been published in association with the Ancient Monuments Laboratory. Postprints of the Proceedings of the Working Group on Training in Conservation and Restoration: *A qualified community: towards internationally agreed standards of qualification for conservation* are now available. Write to English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton NN6 9RY, or telephone 01604 781163, price £10 (product code XB20000; ISBN 1 85074 640 0).

### **Baroque Facade**

Bradmore House, Hammersmith, which boasts one of the most remarkable 18th-century baroque facades in London, is celebrated in a lavishly illustrated A4 booklet, *Bradmore House, Hammersmith*, edited by Michael Burrell. Published by Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group, the booklet contains three articles on the history of Bradmore House, its facade, and its restoration, by Keith Whitehouse, Roger White and Ian McInnes, respectively. Published in April 1996, it is available from Angela Dixon, Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group, 31 St Peter's Square, London W6 9NW, price £3.50 + £1 p&p (2–3 copies, £1.50 p&p; 4–5 copies, £2.50 p&p).

### **Building conservation needs**

*The building conservation directory 1996*, published by Cathedral Communications Ltd was released in April. It is designed to provide up-to-date information for specialist consultants, craftsmen and conservation groups on specialist products and firms. Its six sections – General services, Structure & fabric, Fixings, Protective & remedial treatment, Interiors, External works and Useful information – include short discussions of various topics in building conservation with a view to raising awareness of conservation issues and providing practical ideas and information on the most critical aspects of concern. Available from specialist bookshops and from Cathedral Communications Limited, The Old Brewery,

Tishury, Wiltshire SP3 6NH, telephone 01747 871717, fax 01747 871718, e-mail bcd@cathcomm.demon.co.uk, price £16.95 (incl £2 p&p).

## **Course**

Certificate of Higher Education in British Vernacular Architecture The School of Continuing Studies, University of Birmingham announces a course on British Vernacular Architecture starting in September 1996. All aspects of vernacular buildings will be considered: how, and by whom, they were built, what they were used for, and how they can be researched, surveyed and conserved. It is designed for architects, historians, conservationists, teachers and guides alike. Details from The Marketing and Publicity Office, School of Continuing Studies, The University of Birmingham, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2TT, telephone 0121 414 5607/5932/7259, fax 0121 414 5619.

## **Conferences**

The Historic Farm Buildings Group will hold its annual conference in Crewe, Cheshire, from Friday to Sunday, 20–22 September 1996; non-group members are welcome. Papers will include aspects of current work on farm buildings and on dairy farming in Cheshire and beyond. Delegates will also have the opportunity to visit farmsteads in the area. If you would like further information please contact Davina Turner, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, Shelley House, Acomb Road, York YO2 4HB.

Industrial collections: care and conservation, 9–11 April 1997, Cardiff, South Wales. The conference will comprise three sessions covering ethics, management, and conservation. A keynote speech will be made by Sir Neil Cossons and visits to industrial collections and museums will be included. If you would like further information please contact the organisers, Diane Dollery and Jane Henderson, at the National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP and the Council for Museums in Wales, The Courtyard, Letty Street, Cardiff CF2 4EL, respectively.

## **Native American and Hawaiian human resources inventories**

Inventories of Native American and Native Hawaiian human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service have been sent to 139 culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organisations.

The production of the inventories brings to completion an arduous five-year task set by National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy. Speaking of the task, Mr Kennedy praised all those involved. 'This accounting required the hard work of ethnographers, curators, Indian liaison officers, archaeologists, historians and many, many other dedicated National Park Service professionals. The repatriation process demonstrates our commitment to the common ground and common purpose we all share as Americans... This is only the first step in returning these remains to where they rightfully belong.'

This continuing conservation effort is being carried out under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), passed by the United States Congress in 1990. NAGPRA requires that federal agencies and institutions receiving federal funds inventory the Native American remains and the associated funerary objects in their collections in consultation with culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organisations. It was a further requirement that the inventories be turned over to the appropriate tribes and organisations by 16 May 1996.

The NPS inventory identified 4,982 human remains from 100 different parks.

Approximately 77 per cent were identified as culturally affiliated with present-day tribes and Native Hawaiian organisations; 1,170 remains were culturally unidentifiable. The NAGPRA review committee, a federal advisory group, will make recommendations on the disposition of the culturally unidentifiable remains.

If you would like further information about this issue please write to Dr C Timothy McKeown, NAGPRA Team Leader, Archaeology and Ethnography Program, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington DC, 20012-7127. Alternatively telephone 202 343 4101, or send a fax on 202 523 1547.

## New focus for church archaeology



*St Mary's, a 12th-century church in Stainburn, North Yorkshire*

*In March, the Society for Church Archaeology was launched to promote the study, conservation and preservation of churches and other places of worship. Carol Pyrah reports on this exciting development*

Church archaeology has come a long way since the seminal excavations at Winchester and York Minster in the 1960s. English Heritage now spends over a third of its annual £40 million conservation grant budget on ecclesiastical buildings; the *Care of Cathedrals Measure 1990* has ensured the appointment of a network of cathedral archaeological consultants and the *Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991* requires each Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to have archaeological expertise within its membership.

A focus for antiquarian interest for more than two centuries, churches and their environs continue to play a key role in the community. Yet despite the established work of several special interest groups – such as the Chapels Society (founded from a Council for British Archaeology [CBA] working party), the Church Monuments Society, and the Ecclesiological Society – until recently a broader forum for those interested and involved in church archaeology has been lacking. A new focus was needed after the winding up of the CBA's Churches Committee so in March of this year a Society for Church Archaeology was launched at a stimulating and well-attended day conference in York.

### Fresh goals

The new society aims to promote the study, conservation and preservation of churches and other places of worship. Headed by Professors Rosemary Cramp (President) and Charles Thomas (Chair) it will provide a voice to ensure archaeological input into issues such as redundancy, ecclesiastical exemption and conservation of church buildings and their surroundings. The Society will seek to complement existing organisations, and will organise events and publish an annual journal, *Church Archaeology*.

This year, the annual conference will be held in Oxford on 26 October, and will focus on recent projects in the Oxford area. The Society is also collaborating with the Society of Antiquaries to organise a Europe-wide conference on Early Christian Archaeology in June 1997.

### Journal

*Church Archaeology*, the Society's annual journal, will be based on a greatly expanded version of the CBA Churches Bulletin (published until 1990) providing up-to-date news and a forum for debate on recent research and fieldwork, conservation issues and methodology. Primarily UK-wide in scope, the journal will contain 5,000- and 2,500-word articles, brief news pieces, book reviews and a round-up of recent work, illustrated by monochrome photographs and line drawings. The first issue will be published in March

1997. Contributors should contact the editor, Carol Pyrah, on 01904 671417 or send copy (WordPerfect 5.1/5.2/6.0 format on disk), c/o CBA, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 2UA by 15 Sept 1996

## **Membership**

Membership of the Society for Church Archaeology is open to all with an interest in historic churches, chapel and their environs. Subscriptions are £20 (individual and institutional) and £10 (unwaged). For information membership forms and subscriptions (cheques payable to The Society for Church Archaeology) contact the Council for British Archaeology at the address above, or contact Jez Reeve, Room 214, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.

Carol Pyrah

*Council for British Archaeology*